



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
District 10 Fall Meeting
Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes

Form 8300-026 (R 11/17) Page 1 of 4

ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/05/2019	7:00 P.M.	DNR Service Center, Janesville
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Ken Risley at 7:15 P.M.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Tim Gorski (Dane), Mary Ellen O'Brien (Dane), Paul Reith (Dane), Ken Risley (Green), Richard Marti (Green), Scott Lettman (Green), Ryan Schutte (Green), Jeff Winn (Jefferson), Thomas Schwefel (Jefferson), Dennis Jones (Jefferson), Ryan Stahl (Rock), Kyle Walker (Rock), Larry Meyer (Rock), Charlie Brown (Rock), John Blumreich (Rock), Oscar Mueller (Walworth), Ronald Earnest (Walworth), Kathleen Tober (Walworth) Kenneth Balestrieri (Walworth)
EXCUSED	Jayne Meyer (Dane), Brad Wagner (Dane), Cody Gadow (Green), Avery Lettman (Green), Lowell Wright (Jefferson), Gavin Wright (Jefferson) William Kehoe (Jefferson) Martin Sands (Walworth). Note: Amanda Lettman (Green) has graduated from the youth group.
UNEXCUSED	Unexcused/status unknown:
GUESTS	DNR Liaison John Sinclair, Law Enforcement

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Department of Natural Resources Staff Updates

John Sinclair (DNR Law Enforcement)

DISCUSSION	John Sinclair noted that the warden staffing situation is improving. New recruits are slated to be stationed in September or October, 2019. There should be an improvement in the visibility and presence of wardens, and there will be both marked and unmarked cars. There will continue to be wardens in some of the higher use state parks. John reported that fish and wildlife disciplines are also getting more staff.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Conservation Congress Updates - Guidance for upcoming meetings

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	Guidance for upcoming committee meetings: An informational memo titled 2019 Advisory Committee Guidelines and Responsibilities was sent to WCC advisory committee officers by Kari Lee-Zimmerman. The memo includes guidelines for scheduling meetings, meeting protocol, how to handle citizen resolutions, preparation of meeting minutes, and meeting follow up activities. Ken pointed out a recent change requires committee chairs, vice chairs or secretaries to send an email to Justin Loehrke (thanksgiving1122@hotmail.com) with the meeting date and important agenda items. Within 14 days after the meeting, a summary of the meeting also needs to be sent to Justin.
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ACTION	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE

C. Conservation Congress Updates - WCC Advisory committee assignments

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	<p>Review resolutions originating from your district:</p> <p>Ken briefly reviewed the status of resolutions from the D10 counties.</p> <p>Dane County:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lower panfish daily bag limit on Yahara River chain of lakes (referred to warm water committee) 2. Preserve silence on state lands (referred to motorized recreational vehicles committee) 3. NRB composition regarding silent sports (referred to legislative committee) 4. Ban chocolates and cocoa in bear baits (referred to floor of Congress) 5. Do not reimburse hounders for losses in designated wolf caution areas (referred to legislative committee) 6. Oppose back forty proposed metallic sulfide mine (referred to environmental committee) 7. Establishing a seasonal coyote hunt in Wisconsin (referred to fur harvest committee) 8. Ban statewide killing contests for coyotes and other species (referred to legislative committee) 9. Reform natural resources funding to democratic funding by all citizens (referred to legislative committee) 10. Ban trapping of beavers to help amphibians (failed - no further action) 11. Support the green new deal (referred to environmental committee) <p>Green County:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CWD surveillance testing of Wisconsin elk herd (referred to deer and elk committee) 2. Cooperative CWD research (referred to deer and elk committee) 3. Change opening of muskrat season to 6:00 a.m. on public lands (referred to fur harvest committee) 4. Create CWD scientific research working group (referred to deer and elk committee) <p>Jefferson County:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support passage of Federal Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (referred to environmental committee) <p>Rock County:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Change opening of muskrat season to 6:00 a.m. (referred to fur harvest committee) 2. Allow recreational metal detecting in most waters of the state (referred to legislative committee) 3. Support passage of Federal Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (referred to environmental committee) 4. Responsible mining for clean water (referred to environmental committee) <p>Delegate reimbursement process:</p> <p>Ken reviewed reimbursable expenses and noted there is detailed information and forms on the WCC website under delegate resources.</p> <p>Unexcused absences:</p> <p>Ken noted that all delegates need to contact their committee chairs to let them know whether or not they will be able to attend the committee meetings. Email is acceptable, but sometimes a phone call is better to make sure the information has been communicated.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

D. Conservation Congress Updates - Filling vacancies on county delegations

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	Ken reviewed the policy for filling vacancies - County chairs may appoint someone to fill vacancies in a particular county after identifying interested parties and working with them to get them appointed.	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE	

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E. Conservation Congress Updates - WCC outreach

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	<p>There were positive comments on increased outreach through efforts of the strategic planning committee, particularly through Facebook posts. Ideas for additional outreach were discussed. Members are encouraged to send write ups on any local conservation projects to the Conservation Chronicle for publication. District chairs and co-chairs could ensure that the results of delegate elections are published in area newspapers following the spring hearing. This would be a good way to let area residents know who their local WCC contacts area. Those members who are on Facebook could develop connections with local sporting groups as a way to share WCC information. Sporting goods stores and places that sell hunting and fishing licenses would also be good places to leave flyers, brochures, etc. about WCC. It was suggested that DNR send specific news releases to local news media outlets to announce the spring hearings. John Sinclair noted that DNR has done paid ads through Facebook to target specific groups in the state. Ken reminded everyone that outreach information such as flyers and presentations are available on the WCC website under delegate resources.</p> <p>It was noted that the WCC now has additional and better equipped trailers that can be used by sporting and conservation groups to educate the public on the WCC. Kathleen Tober (Walworth County) suggested that the WCC should let high schools know about the trailers and where they will be located.</p> <p>Larry Meyer noted there will be a trapping demo on August 24, 2019 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m) at the Delevan Sportsmen's Club.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

F. Conservation Congress Updates - Youth Conservation Congress

Ken Risley

DISCUSSION	<p>As noted previously, Amanda Lettman (Green County) has graduated from the YCC. Delegates are encouraged to continue youth recruitment by reaching out to schools and youth groups, inviting youth to district and other WCC meetings and asking them to volunteer in WCC venues such as the trailers.</p>	
ACTION		
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Kyle Walker (Rock County) expressed disappointment that the DNR wildlife and fisher liaisons could not be at the meeting. Paul Reith (Dane County) suggested that DNR could provide summaries of their presentations ahead of the district meetings. This would give members an opportunity to review DNR's input and ask questions.</p> <p>Thomas Schwefel (Jefferson County) expressed concern that he was not currently on the deer and elk committee that he has been on for quite some time, and wasn't sure how he missed the sign up process. Ken noted that since 7 of the 11 districts have three members on the deer and elk committee, he will request an additional position for District 10. Mary Ellen O'Brien (Dane County) mentioned she had also somehow missed the opportunity to sign up as secretary of the environmental committee. She suggested that perhaps a more specific and formal process for reviewing committee assignments and signing up for committee positions would be beneficial. Historically the delegates from District 10 are given the opportunity to sign up for the Committee of their choice at the March District Meeting and again at the Annual WCC Convention. Vacant positions on Committees are given to Delegates with seniority and interest in making the Committee better. If multiple delegates want the same Committee assignment then District Leadership selects the delegate that they feel is best qualified to represent the District. If a delegate fails to sign the Committee Assignment Sheet at the March District Meeting or at the Annual Convention for what ever reason, then it is assumed that they are no longer interested.</p> <p>Paul Reith (Dane County) noted that Larry Bonde sent an email asking for members to contact Kari if they are interested in being involved in the on-line input process.</p>
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	Larry Meyer (Rock County) expressed concern about the increase in the number and size of Consolidated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOS) in the state and their effect on small farming operations. Kathleen Tober (Walworth County) asked DNR whether it is illegal to keep and display bird nests. John Sinclair stated it is not illegal as long as the nests are taken when they are not occupied. It is illegal to disturb active nests. Thanks to Mary Ellen O'Brien for recording the minutes.
ACTION	Ken Risley will request that another member is added to the Deer and Elk Committee from District 10

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	8:30 P.M. Motion to adjourn by Dennis Jones, seconded by Kenneth Balestrieri , passed
SUBMITTED BY	Ken Risley
DATE	08/08/2019